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FM AMCONSUL MUMBAI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4048

INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5334

RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 8812

RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 1149

RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1057

RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0608

RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 0032

RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 0100

RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 0215

RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0504

RUEHKKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0600

RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0054

RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0611

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MUMBAI 001307

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR S/CT, SCA/INS, OPS CENTER, DS, DS/IP/ITA, DS/IP/SCA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER KISL PGOV PREL ASEC CASC IN

SUBJECT: MUMBAI REMAINS CALM AS POLICE DETAIN HUNDREDS IN CONNECTION WITH BOMBINGS

REF: A) MUMBAI 1302, B) MUMBAI 1293, C) MUMBAI 890

Summary

¶1. (U) Nearly 48 hours after bombs exploded aboard seven trains traveling Mumbai's western commuter railway line, casualty figures continue to rise, varying between 200 and 186 depending on the source. The number injured has also increased to 772. There have been no reports of Amcit deaths or injuries to date, however. A Consulate FSN was in one of the train compartments that got hit but received only minor injuries. Police are investigating possible leads but are not yet prepared to officially name suspects, we were told, but unofficially, police told us they continue to suspect Lakshar-e-Toiba (LeT) involvement, based upon the sophistication and planning required. Police reportedly detained over 300 persons, mostly Muslims, for questioning in connection with the bombings. Forensic analysis of the seven bombed train compartments, and items recovered within, are still ongoing, as police sort out whether RDX linked to recent explosives seizures in Aurangabad was employed. There are no reports of reprisals against the city's Muslim community to date and public blaming of local Muslim's continues to be avoided. A citywide protest denouncing terrorism, however, was allegedly planned for July 13, but called off, our contacts told us. Otherwise, life in Mumbai is relatively normal, the city is open for business, and market trading seems unaffected by the terrorist attacks. End summary.

Casualty Update

¶2. (U) As of 1500 hours local, July 13 - and nearly 48 hours after bombs exploded aboard seven trains traveling Mumbai's western commuter railway line - casualty figures continue to rise, varying between 200 and 186 depending on the source. The number injured has also increased to 772. There have been no reports of Amcit deaths or injuries to date, but Post will continue to investigate this possibility with local hospitals. To repeat, Post experienced no casualties, American or otherwise (refs A, B). One FSN was in a train compartment that got hit but received only minor injuries. See para 4 for his account of

the explosion.

Bombing Investigation Continues

¶3. (SBU) In a July 12 conversation with the Deputy Commissioner of Mumbai Police, the Consul General was told that police are investigating possible leads but are not yet prepared to officially name suspects. However, the media reports that the police continue to strongly suspect Lakshar-e-Toiba (LeT) involvement in the attacks, based upon the sophistication and planning required. In discussions with an RSO FSN investigator, working level police contacts confirmed the media reports that alleged LeT and Students Islamic Movement of India members Zabiuddin Ansari and Mohammed Faiyaz are prime suspects. Ansari may be the same individual identified in ref C as wanted in connection with weapons and explosives recovered in Aurangabad. Police also believe some level of local assistance was provided and have taken over 300 individuals into custody. Post contacts confirm that 148 people were arrested in the predominantly Muslim neighborhood of Malad. Of these 15 were detained. This also led to 4 arrests in Mumbai's Bhayendar neighborhood, the location of one bombing. Local media also reported that four Pakistanis were detained in Kathmandu, Nepal, in connection with the bombings.

¶4. (U) Forensic analysis of the seven bombed train compartments, and items recovered within, are still ongoing, but that has not stopped wide speculation as to the material and detonators used. The attackers, it is contended, used either RDX or gelatin sticks, with either pencil timers or radio controlled detonators. Post contacts in the police claim that RDX with mobile phone timers was used but this may be a premature assessment. According to a Consulate FSN employee who rode within one bombed train compartment, whatever explosive was

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used created a bright "yellow" flash accompanied by deafening noise. Following the explosion, there was "fire" but little heat and the compartment filled with "acrid and sour" smoke that smelled like "fireworks". Passengers were covered with fine "shiny, silvery dust." (Note: Police recently seized 43 kilograms of RDX in connection with the Auragabad case noted above. Police sources also told us that one ton of commercial grade explosives, believed to be gelatin, were stolen from a construction site in Mumbai several months ago. End note.)

Mumbai Remaining Calm

¶5. (U) There are no reports of reprisals against the city's Muslim community to date and public blaming of local Muslims continue to be avoided. A citywide protest denouncing terrorism, however, was allegedly planned for July 13, but called off, our contacts tell us.

¶6. (U) Mumbai's train system, which experienced minor delays yesterday, is operating normally on July 13. The international airport was reporting delays on flights to and from Delhi due to increased passenger security checks. The bombings have made some commuters nervous, however. Passengers at Bhayendar station, for instance, reportedly handed over four individuals to law enforcement for allegedly abandoning bags at the terminal. All were then questioned and immediately released. Mumbai Director General of Police Roy, moreover, announced the future use of explosives sniffing dogs and metal detectors at city train stations to help calm fears. (Comment: Assuming police have them in sufficient numbers, dogs would seem easy to deploy. Creating a workable metal detector system in the free-for-all of Mumbai's overcrowded railway stations seems unrealistic in the short-term. End comment.) Federal Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav recently announced \$11,111 compensation for each victim and promised one railway job for a family member of every deceased.

¶7. (U) After gaining an impressive 2.97 percent the day after

the bombings, the stock market was trading down approximately 1 percent on the afternoon of July 13. Businesses, government offices, schools and colleges all were open for business again as well.

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